



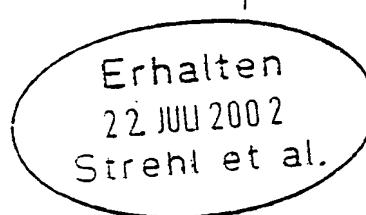
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Datum/Date

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| Zeichen/Ref./Ref. EPA-53837 | Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 02002879.1-1215- |
| Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Dowa Mining Co., Ltd. | |

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 02 00 2879

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The numbers are as contained in the European Patent Office EPO file. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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